



For Immediate Release:

December 16, 2013

Statement from the LA County Department of Public Health Regarding Today's Ruling Against Lead Paint Manufacturers

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles County is pleased to be one of ten California Counties included in today's \$1.1 billion verdict against manufacturers of lead paint that impaired the health of many County residents, especially infants and children. "The \$605 million awarded to Los Angeles County for remediation of lead contaminated housing is an overdue payment that will help safeguard the health of our children," said Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Los Angeles County Director of Public Health and Health Officer. Priority will go to remediation in residential housing in low income areas.

The message of California Superior Court Judge Kleinberg's decision is clear. Companies that knowingly manufactured and sold lead paint for interior use in residences despite knowing that it poisoned children must be held accountable for their actions. Los Angeles County is continuing to read through the Judge's extensive verdict to determine its impacts for implementation of abatement and remediation.

The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises nearly 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding \$750 million. To learn more about Public Health and the work we do please visit <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov>, visit our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth>, find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/lapublichealth>, or follow us on Twitter: @LAPublicHealth.

###